

Solid Waste Strategy Discussion
Denali Commission Solid Waste Program
June 2, 2006

Welcome

Cindy Roberts, DCCED Liaison to the Denali Commission and Solid Waste Program Manager, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

All invitees had the following information regarding background for the meeting: [The US Department of Agriculture - Rural Development has allocated three consecutive years of funding totaling \\$3,250,000 to the Denali Commission “to address deficiencies in solid waste disposal sites which threaten to contaminate rural drinking water supplies”](#). In addition, in FY 2005, the [Commission directed staff to evaluate state-wide solid waste management strategies in collaboration with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and other involved organizations](#).

The Solid Waste Program has enabled communities and nonprofit organizations to acquire equipment to improve the management of solid waste and take steps to protect drinking water supplies. Including FY 2006 awards, 27 awards have gone to municipal and tribal governments, two awards to boroughs, and eight awards to nonprofit organizations. (Some have received more than one award.) Awards have been for equipment such as fencing, containers, loading platforms, loaders, balers, used oil handling equipment, grinders, and a range of incinerator technologies.

In our efforts to bring together the organizations and individuals involved in solid waste issues in Alaska, we have made a number of contacts and brain-stormed possible collaborative scenarios. The meeting June 2 will expand that discussion and lead to recognition of the current initiatives and introduction of “players”. It will begin new collaborations and increased effectiveness in Alaska’s solid waste management picture.

Self-Introductions:

George Cannelos-Denali Commission, Bill Allen, Merlaine Kruse, Gene Kane, Debby Retherford – USDA RD, Bill Heubner – National Park Service (NPS), Art Ronimus & Lisa McGuire – Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), Kim Stricklan – ADEC SW and Pesticides Program, Kevin Kleweno & James Keen – Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), Tom Stratton – AK Rural Water Assoc., Mollie Boyer – Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) Wasilla & Alaska Zero Waste Coalition (AZ-WAC), Jeanne Carlson – Green Star, Mary Fisher – ALPAR, Endil Moore - City of Nenana/Crowley Marine, Rob Rosenfeld, John Waterhouse & Anna Pratt – Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), Edna Hancock- Nenana Tribal Council & YRITWC, Bill Stokes - 7 Generations, Bill Bernard – Bethel SW/Recycling, Larry Weiss - Alaska Center for Public Policy, Jennifer Williams – Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), Larry Zirkle – Total Reclaim/ITEP, Lynn Zender- Zender Environmental/ITEP, Norm Fairbanks – Public Health Service/Indian Health Service (PHS/IHS), Steve Boardman & Molly TeVrucht – Army Corps of Engineers, Phil Johnson – US Fish & Wildlife Service, Joe Sarcone – EPA, Nils Andreassen – RurAL CAP, David Lancaster – Summit Consulting, Tom & Judy Hall - Community Waste Solutions (Haines), Jamilia George – Denali Commission, Kevin Harun & Roy Agloinga – Municipality of Anchorage, Cindy Roberts – AK Dept. of Commerce/Denali Commission (DCCED). Interns: Erica Mensch –Denali/RurAL CAP, Mara Machulski – Denali, Anna Josephson & Nick Moe – Municipality of Anchorage

On-line Participants:

Charlene Derry, John Lovett & Scott Bergland – FAA, Fran Stefan - Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 (Seattle), Cathy Mayer -Kenai Peninsula Borough, Jim Patterson – ADEC Village Safe Water, Rick Pillans - Threshold Services Inc. (Kodiak), Arlene Rosenkrans -Copper Valley RC&D/ ROAR (Glennallen), Roland Shanks - RDS Environmental/ Rural Community

Assistance Corporation (RCAC), Chris Shell - Chilkoot Indian Association (Haines), Mike Catsi - Skagway Development Corporation, Mark Howard - Hooper Bay, Eric - White Mountain.

Solid Waste Strategy Discussion

Cindy Roberts gave an overview of the assignment of the Denali Commission and began calling on participants to discuss where their organizations were active and their interest in an expanded collaboration. (Items in **bold** will be posted on the Solid Waste Program web page by 6/16.)

Cindy introduced George Cannelos - Federal CoChair of the Denali Commission who welcomed all and thanked the group for attending. He hopes this initiative will do more than just bless projects and make grants, the Commission is looking for lasting contributions through this collaborative effort.

Cindy introduced Bill Allen, AK Director of the USDA Rural Development office (and funding agency of the Denali Commission SW Program). Bill thanked Cindy for her efforts and stated that the most under-recognized issue in Alaska is solid waste. Every community we visit has a solid waste problem. Numbers to correct that problem are huge. With Cindy's leadership and state getting involved with Denali Commission in rural development, we will solve this problem. We need to put together a master plan for the state. We have met with the Governor – he is expecting us to come up with a solution to this problem. We need everyone's contribution.

Rob Rosenfeld, Executive Director of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, Spoke about the YRITWC's recent **award** from The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. One of the directives of the YRITWC board was that this award be shared with key partner organizations. Edna Hancock of Nenana assisted in presenting plaques (with copies of the award document) to George Cannelos, Bill Allen and Joe Sarcone who represented the EPA. Rob also presented a DVD with a copy of the organization's TV commercial that played during the 2006 Super Bowl.

Cindy conveyed greetings from Representative Peggy Wilson (Dist. 2 Wrangell) who was unable to attend. The Governor has signed **HB 392**, "An Act authorizing the establishment of regional solid waste management authorities". This legislation resulted from Representative Wilson's work with the regional Southeast Conference (SEC). SEC received a FY 2004 SW Program award to research the best legal framework to create a bonding authority structure. It will be a valuable tool for the communities of SE and other regional hubs in the state. (There will be a link to this document on the SW webpage.)

One of the objectives of the session was to create a graphic statement of where government agencies and nonprofit organizations (NGOs) are active in the state. Participants were encouraged to place signal dots on a large map. This will be used in conjunction with the "Players Information" sheets that all participants were asked to complete and submit. (**Maps** are under development.)

On-Line Participants were asked to make comments: Charlene Derry –FAA Liaison to the Denali Commission- introduced John Lovett. There are two **advisory circulars (AC No. 150/5200-33A and AC No. 150/5200-34)** that relate to this discussion (separation distance between runways and landfills). They lead through the planning process of siting (new) landfills. Legal standard is for landfills/dumps to be at least 5,000 feet away from runways, or 10,000 feet separation for turbine aircraft (4,000 foot minimum runways). The waiver process is outlined in the circulars. Everyone needs to work together and be aware of landfill proximity to airports.

Ethan Birkholz –DOT&PF Planning Manager-Northern Region Planning DOT&PF is involved in roads connected to sewage lagoons and landfills. Projects are identified through proposal/application through the STP nomination process. There are over **a dozen road connection projects** across the state scheduled for summer 2007 construction. Sequencing is a

problem. It's hard to get landfill road funded if there isn't a permitted site approved by DEC, or at least in progress. Project selection process will start again after November.

Fran Stephan -Tribal Specialist EPA Region 10 Seattle - The Regional Administrator (and staff of EPA) has been in conversation with ADEC and others about working together on solutions for SW in Alaska – especially in rural areas. Fran's special focus is working with tribal organizations. She will explore ways to share information from this meeting and finding a way that EPA can work with everyone across the state.

Joe Sarcone - Rural Sanitation Coordinator EPA AK– There could be funds to go to villages in Alaska with Indian General Assistance Program (I-GAP). Each year we have **125-150 villages with IGAP programs** (funded up to \$110,000). This is a highly- competitive national programs. This year there were 76 applicants, 25 from Alaska. The Program funds people and operations where other programs (like the Denali Commission SW Program) fund only equipment.

Norm Fairbanks – US Public Health Service/Indian Health Service- Right now IHS participates in a funding role, often in cooperation with the EPA. The agency also participates in sanitation deficiency system (SDS) and funds **projects** in Indian/Native communities. They work closely with ANTHC.

Art Ronimus, PE – Engineering Consultant with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) – Art hopes to see the SW solutions expanded for rural Alaska. Agency will continue to seek funds and work with everyone.

Lisa McGuire - ANTHC – Her office works with tribes on providing funding through EPA grants. ANTHC also provides technical assistance.

Nils Andreassen – RurAL CAP Environmental Program Director – RurAL CAP has **20 Raven Americorps members** working on environmental issues in rural areas. They come from rural communities and return home to work. The training they receive provides a base for environmental work that extends beyond the participants' 2 year-long commitment. The program is funded by the EPA, but they are looking for additional resources and initiatives for them to work with.

Erica Mensch - RurAL CAP/Denali intern – Summer project is to work with Russian Mission to develop a community plan.

Jennifer Williams – Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (**ITEP**) - Program is funded through the EPA to provide training and technical assistance to specific regions of Alaska. Over 400 people have participated in the last few years.

Bill Stokes – 7 Generations –The firm's focus is training in solid waste management and innovative technical options. Bill advises: Treat recycling like a business. Find mechanics so everyone can make money on the deal.

Lynn Zender – Zender Environmental – Firm provides educational materials and technical assistance through ITEP program and developed **SWAN website**.

Larry Zirkle – **Total Reclaim, Inc.** – The firm receives materials at its Anchorage plant through the YRITWC backhaul project as well as many other sources. Larry brought information regarding recycling hub operations and a (local community) staging area description and requirements. Larry's advice: "Act as one voice and develop hubs" to work together.

Rob Rosenfeld, Alaska Region Director– Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) - **63 tribal organizations** have gotten together to work toward the vision "to be able to drink

directly from the Yukon River". YRITWC has science and monitoring department working on environmental education in the schools. Rob would like to see a statewide conference to involve people from rural communities. Also like to see forming issue-specific focus groups. He suggested that small teams to try to solve different issues.

John Waterhouse – YRITWC Backhaul Coordinator – In 2005, 1.5 million pounds of steel and other materials was brought out of the Yukon communities. It was an extensive team effort. Crowley Marine is a major part of this program.

Edna Hancock – Tribal Administrator for Nenana /YRITWC – Edna has been working with John and Rob trying to create a high-tech central landfill in Nenana. Their nearest facility is 23 miles south at the Denali Borough landfill. The community/area needs something closer. The village corporation is working with an environmental group to do 12 recycling centers for bombing range debris. Nenana is a possible site (in cooperation with the military?). Two facilities will be sited in Alaska.

Endil Moore- Crowley Marine Service/ City of Nenana Assembly – Yutana Barge (now owned by Crowley) has been hauling stuff to villages for years but nothing back the other direction. Crowley wanted to help have cleaner water, atmosphere, so started on the Yukon River. Hoping some funding develops so we can continue other programs. Appreciates the efforts of the YRITWC and will continue to support it. Crowley supports a recycling and processing center in Nenana to process 40 village's materials.

Molly TeVrucht – US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) / "FUDS Program (Building Demolition and Debris Removal) - Focus is **cleanup of military sites**. She is looking for a place in state to dispose of military waste.

Steve Boardman –US Army Corps of Engineers/ Chief Civil projects Manager - COE is supporting federal agencies with cleanup initiatives. COE can provide (on cash reimbursable basis to) anyone who wants assistance in developing environmental solutions. COE is working on erosion control and is monitoring 167 identified villages. COE's concern is that (in siting new facilities) they don't want to construction solutions that are in harms way.

Philip Johnson – Contaminants Coordinator US Fish & Wildlife Service – F&WS is more of *user* of local facilities. There are offices in **15 hubs** around the state. They are required to *ship out* for recycling. Also do biological projects around the state. Require people to haul out whatever they bring in. Human waste issues are also being addressed. Support Corps of Engineers dealing with eroding landfills. As things change and erosion rates accelerate, managing SW will become a bigger issue.

Bill Heubner – Civil Engineer with the National Park Service –NPS has **twelve national park units** with challenges. Regulations prohibit the establishment of solid waste sites and SW must be hauled out. A lot of park units are in towns where they can utilize the landfill and they participate however they can in recycling. Unfortunately, in park-financed recycling facilities (bailers, glass crushers, etc) , there are prohibitions against allowing the local communities' access and use. Certainly want to work with local communities to be part of paying for our share of addressing these issues. (Example: City of Gustavus works with Glacier Bay National Park.)

Arlene Rosenkrans - Copper Valley RC&D Coordinator/**Copper Valley Development Association**/ Recycling Our Area's Resources (ROAR) Glennallen – Arlene has spent three years trying to get funding to address local recycling issues. She'd sure like to see state take leadership role to deal with junk cars.

Keven Kleweno – Regulatory Commission of Alaska – RCA regulates collection and disposal of refuse on statewide level. It doesn't regulate recycling or landfills. RCA open to hearing of concerns of the collection and transportation end.

Mollie Boyer –Director, **Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) / AZ-WAC** – Alaska Zero Waste Action Council – Objective is to divert material en route to the MatSu Borough landfill (through reuse, recycle and reduction). In 2003, VCRS set up center and last year increased capacity through Rasmuson and Denali Commission funding. VCRS gives information to other people and does phone conferences to assist others to get started.

Cathy Mayer – Solid Waste Director, Kenai Peninsula Borough- Borough has a diverse SW mission with **seven different landfills**. The borough has received three pieces of equipment to assist in their SW management Burn boxes have been very beneficial. Junk vehicles remain a real problem.

Jeanne Carlson – Program Director, Green Star – Offers technical assistance and recognition for businesses and organizations going above and beyond in their recycling and waste management. Organization has been around for 15 years. Annual electronic recycling event is one of Green Star's biggest events. Collected 330 tons this year. Their goal is to expand electronic collection statewide. (**Current sites.**)

Mary Fisher – Executive Director, Alaskans for Litter Prevention & Recycling (ALPAR) – Mission is to eliminate litter. Manage backhaul of recyclables through rail belt to Lower 48. Backhaul aluminum cans out of the Bush through the Flying Cans program. ALPAR provide financing for local teams for litter clean up. Cans Program can be expanded. She's looking for additional **communities** and carriers.

Bill Bernard – Solid Waste Coordinator, City of Bethel / Bethel Recycling Center – Recycling has seen recent dramatic increases. Bethel landfill has car crusher which processes vehicles that can be filled with additional metals pre-crush. Would like to see a program to get junk vehicles off the Kuskokwim.

Tom Stratton – Alaska Rural Water Association – EDA funded program is source water protection program. Provides training and technical assistance for water and waste water personnel. ARWA covers the entire state through circuit riders. Eventually training certificates will be required by State of Alaska prior to grant submittals. Wants to see more on composting.

Tom Hall – Haines Sanitation/ Community Waste Solutions – Company does composting in Haines and Skagway. Not regulated. Treatment facility, not a disposal facility. There are a lot of different solutions.

Dave Lancaster – Director Rural Waste Management, Summit Consulting Services, Inc. Firm has focused on a practical approach to SW Management in Rural Alaska through design and manufacture of a high-volume burn box. Boxes are sited in about **two dozen villages**. Summit has created other products in the last year for purpose of waste collection and transfer. Supports efforts of YRITWC.

Kevin Harun – Municipality of Anchorage –Mayor is looking at taking a portion of garbage fees and using it for recyclables and renewables. Municipality is looking at launching curbside recycling collection and a volume-based variable rate system. Kevin is working on global warming issues and creating an Office of Sustainability at the City.

Kim Stricklan, PE – Program Manager, ADEC Solid Waste & Pesticides Program –Agency regulates landfills, not recycling. There are about 50 landfills in the state. Approximately 200

additional sites are not operating with a permit. Like to see all recycling efforts work together. ADEC is working on revised landfill regulations. **Maps.**

Larry Weiss - Alaska Center for Public Policy – Private non-profit which does program evaluations or anything related to public policy, research, formation, and critique.

Wrap-Up

In keeping with the two-hour limit of the session, Cindy presented an overview of the discussion: As you think about where we should go next, talk with your contacts. One issue to consider is whether this group wants to meet again. There may be political and legislative issues where your organization may want to focus. In preparing for this session, a number of specific issues were discussed. Ideas that have come up for conversation are:

- Recycling and the role of HB 392 Authorities.
- Liability issues for solid waste processors
- Funding mechanism for dealing with disposal of junk cars
- Local use of facilities in cooperation with federal agencies

The week of June 12th, follow-up conversations are scheduled. Denali Commission may or may not have more money to assist in SW management. (It has been an annual appropriation from USDA RD.) The RFP for the Solid Waste Program is currently limited to equipment and investigation of SW management strategies in progress across the state.

These meeting notes and the contact list are for your use and creative thinking. The target for posting the associated maps is July 1. **Thank you all for your time and participation. We'll alert you via email of future sessions.**

Cindy

These minutes are going out in draft form. If you have (critical) corrections, please contact me. Meeting Notes (as they are revised) will be posted on the website. Please submit information on your organization if you have not already done so. Please send in info to post regarding the **bold** items in your discussion.

NOTE:

On June 15th there will be a film fest at the museum on electronic recycling at 7:00 p.m. at the Anchorage Museum.

CIP/SDS project submission deadline is June 16th. ANTHC or VSW engineers have information.

Contact:

Cindy Roberts
AK Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Liaison to the Denali Commission
Manager, Denali Commission Solid Waste Program
510 I Street, Suite 410
Anchorage, AK 99510
Tel: 907/271-3018 Fax: 907/271-1415
croberts@denali.gov